

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 08525 050942Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /053 W  
-----019363 050946Z /10

P R 050844Z JUL 78  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1270  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8525

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF, PINS, VN, TW  
SUBJECT: 135 REFUGEES ARRIVE HONG KONG AND REFUSE DEPART  
FOR TAIWAN

1. TWO TAIWANESE FISHING BOATS ARRIVED IN HONG KONG WATERS FROM VIETNAM ON JULY 3 WITH 135 REFUGEES ON ABOARD, MAJORITY OF THEM SINO-VIETNAMESE. SINCE BOTH BOATS ARE TAIWANESE AND WERE ORIGINALLY RETURNING TO TAIWAN, HONG KONG GOVT (HKG) DID NOT WANT ALLOW REFUGEES TO LAND. HOWEVER, SIX REFUGEES WHO WERE SICK WERE PERMITTED TO BE PLACED IN HOSPITAL AND ANOTHER FIFTEEN WHO WERE RELATIVES WERE ALSO ALLOWED TO LAND.

2. ON JULY 4 HKG DECIDED THAT BOTH BOATS WOULD BE TOLD TO PROCEED TO TAIWAN WITH REMAINING 114 REFUGEES AFTER BOATS WERE PROVISIONED WITH SUFFICIENT FUEL, OIL, WATER AND FOOD. WHEN REFUGEES LEARNED OF THIS DECISION, AS BOATS BEGAN TO DEPART, THE STORMED WHEELHOUSES AND FORCED CREW TO STOP ENGINES. HONG KONG MARINE POLICE INTERVENED QUICKLY AND BROUGHT SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. ON JULY 5 HKG DECIDED TO LAND ALL REFUGEES UNDER USUAL UNHCR GUARANTEE.

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3. THESE NEW ARRIVALS BRING TOTAL NUMBER OF BOAT REFUGEES PRESENTLY IN HONG KONG/MACAU 1,263.

4. HKG SOURCES INFORMED US THAT CREW CLAIMED THAT BOATS HAD BEEN SEIZED BY VIETNAMESE MILITIA AND HELD FOR 21 DAYS. FISH THEY HAD CAUGHT AND OIL AND FUEL WERE TAKEN BY VIETNAMESE MILITIA, AND CREWS WERE RELEASED

ON CONDITION THAT BOTH BOATS BRING THE 135 REFUGEES  
TO HONG KONG. SUFFICIENT OIL AND FUEL WAS RETURNED  
TO ALLOW BOATS TO REACH HONG KONG. APPARENTLY THE  
135 REFUGEES GOT ON BOATS AT AN ISLAND NEAR THE  
VIETNAMESE COAST. PRESUMABLY REFUGEES BRIBED VIETNAMESE  
AUTHORITIES FOR THIS ARRANGEMENTS. HKG SOURCES STATE  
THEY DO NOT KNOW IF THIS STORY IS TRUE AND THEY ARE  
CHECKING IT OUT AT PRESENT TIME. WE WERE ALSO TOLD  
THAT THE HKG UNDERSTANDS THERE ARE OTHER TAIWAN FISHING BOATS  
IN SAME SITUATION.  
SHOESMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978HONGK08525  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** 135 REFUGEES ARRIVE HONG KONG AND REFUSE DEPART FOR TAIWAN  
**TAGS:** SREF, PINS, VN, TW  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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